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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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Preliminary 2016 Law Enforcement Fatalities Report

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund released its preliminary fatalities report, showing [135 officers killed nationwide in 2016](#). This is a 10 percent increase from 2015 and is the highest level in five years. Nearly half of them – 64 – were shot and killed. This is an increase of 56 percent from 2015 numbers.

Even more concerning, 21 shooting deaths were ambush-style attacks, the highest in two decades. There were eight incidents where multiple shooting deaths occurred, including the ambush attack in Dallas, Texas, which claimed the lives of five officers.

This short, preliminary report breaks down the shooting fatalities further by type of incident and firearm used. Other causes of line of duty deaths include traffic-related incidents (53), job-related illnesses (11), and beatings (3). The state with the most reported fatalities was Texas with 17, followed by California with 10. The averages for the fallen officers this year was 40 years old with 13 years of service and two children.

Despite these troubling numbers, we should note line of duty fatalities have been dropping steadily since 1971, which saw 280 officer fatalities. It is too soon to tell if the recent numbers are a short-lived spike or a trend that will continue; however, it is important to be aware of these numbers and what they represent for safety and security. Always maintain situational awareness and never assume any call is typical.

Follow preliminary 2017 reporting on the [NLEOMF website](#).

(Source: [NLEOMF](#))

Zoning and Disaster Recovery Through Imagery

The Natural Hazards Center (NHC) at the University of Colorado at Boulder released interesting research on land use near industries utilizing hazardous materials using open source imagery to look at the damaged residences, municipal buildings, and businesses experienced from the 2013 West, Texas, fertilizer plant explosion.

Interestingly, Google was asked by the government to do a new “Street View” of West after the explosion, which was carried out within two to three days. The NHC used this new data to compare with imagery collected before the explosion in “[The Geography of an Explosion](#)” to determine the damage sustained and the recovery outcomes.

Those that work with zoning and land-use limits should take note of the findings, which state “each one-tenth of a mile from the explosion dramatically reduced the

damage to houses,” giving weight to larger buffer zones between residences and some industrial businesses. In the case of West, urban creep toward the plant went unchecked for decades for a variety of reasons. Many communities around the country have similar circumstances.

The overall implication to emergency management is also of note here. We now have an unprecedented amount of freely-available imagery that, with some organization and expertise, allows agencies to conduct post-disaster damage assessments more easily. Even if you don't have the luxury of Google being called in to reimage a location, being able to pull up a street view of neighborhoods hit by tornadoes to see where houses used to be, for example, can be of immense assistance.

(Source: [Natural Hazards Center](#))

National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

The third annual [National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#), a National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) program, is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th and State Farm is again providing grant money for community projects. This year, [150 projects will be chosen to receive \\$500 grants](#) to reduce community wildfire risk.

Organizers interested in obtaining a grant can [browse project success stories](#) and read the rules and guidelines. The deadline for entry is March 3rd, 2017.

NFPA also offers resources for project organizers including news release templates, social media hashtags, webpage banners, best practices for grant applications, and customizable fliers to distribute locally. Project organizers are encouraged to [list projects on the national map](#) regardless of whether they are applying for a grant or not.

As hoped, this annual event continues to grow to help promote better community involvement in wildfire risk reduction. This is a great opportunity for communities in Wildland Urban Interface areas to begin new projects or expand on projects already progressing. It is also a chance for different community organizations to come together to work for the common goal of saving life and property.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Hurricane Virtual Tabletop Exercise Scheduled

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute [Virtual Tabletop Exercise](#) (VTTX) program will offer six sessions of a hurricane scenario on March 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, and again April 11th, 12th, and 13th. The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures.

This VTTX offering helps communities prepare for the upcoming hurricane season using historical events and recovery actions. The application deadlines are February 21st (for March offerings) and March 14th (for April offerings). Content is the same each day, and participants would attend only one session.

The exercises run 12 p.m.-4 p.m. EST on each of the days listed above. To participate, send an email to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-7645. Also, send a courtesy copy email to the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-1381. Future scenarios in 2017 include floods, a chlorine incident, earthquakes, and cyber incidents.

(Source: [EMI VTTX](#))

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the [National Infrastructure Coordinating Center](#) by phone at 202-282-9201, or by email at nicc@dhs.gov.